

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 19 and 21 through 27 are pending in this application.

The Office Action objects to claim 10 but asserts that it is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 has been amended to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 19, 20 and 25 under 35. U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is moot as to claim 20, which has been cancelled. Claims 19 and 25 have been amended to obviate this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 11, 12, 14, 17-22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,053,381 to Fahl (hereinafter "Fahl"). This rejection is moot as to claim 20, which has been cancelled.

Applicants submit that Fahl fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. The Fahl device is a backpack having a retracting strap 20A that can be retracted or extended to permit the user to easily put on or remove the backpack:

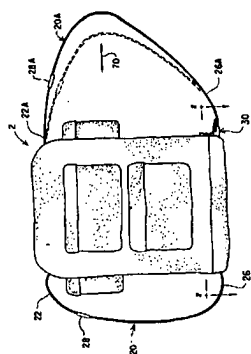


FIG. 1

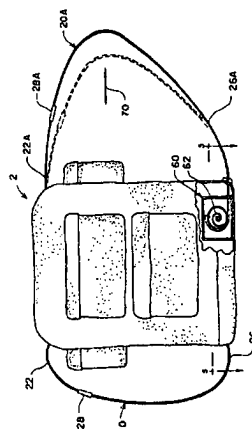


FIG. 4

Fahl describes its backpack as follows:

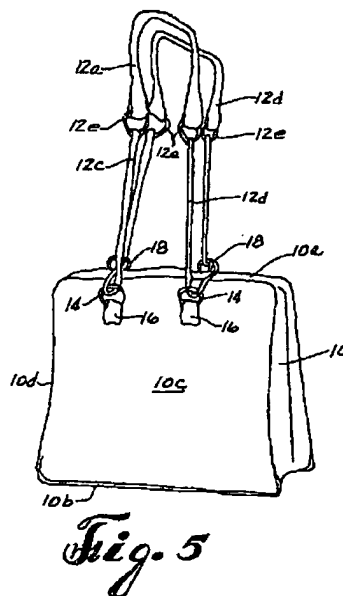
The retracting strap 20A includes a retracting means for selectively extending and retracting the length of the retracting strap 20A while the backpack 2 is being put on and removed from the user's back. The retracting means may be housed in the second or lower portion 12 of the rear section 6. The retracting strap 20A also includes a locking means for stopping the retracting means from extending and retracting the length of the retracting strap 20A during carrying of the backpack 2. The second portion 12 of the rear section 6 may include an opening. The retracting strap 20A may extend through the opening, and the locking means may be positioned near the opening. (Fahl col. 4, lines 13-23).

Fahl fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and of a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. Claims 2-5, 11, 12, 14, 17-19, 21, 22 and 25-27 depend from claim 1 and thus are also not anticipated by Fahl.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 11-13, 15, 16 and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,194,602 to Allen (hereinafter "Allen"). This rejection is moot as to claim 20, which has been cancelled.

Applicants submit that Allen fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. The Allen device is a handbag having handle segments 12A and 12B that allow a user to fixedly adjust from a first hand

carrying position to a second shoulder carrying position:

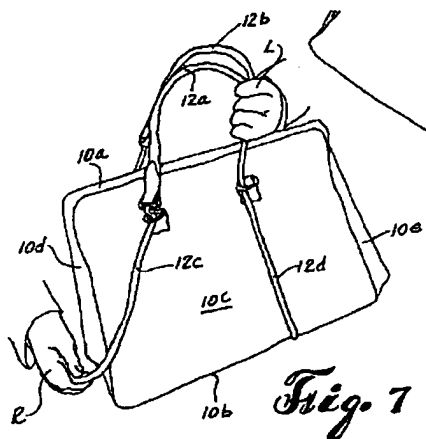


Allen describes its device as follows:

To convert the bag assembly from the hand held form shown in FIG. 1 to a shoulder supported form, the assembly may be supported in one hand, e.g. the right hand R, by gripping the handle segments 12a and 12b as shown in FIG. 2. The user may then grasp with the other hand, in this case, left hand L, the portion of one of the support segments 12d which lies across the bottom 10b of the bag body as shown in FIG. 2. This portion of the support segment 12d is passed upwardly along the adjacent end 10e of the bag body and over the top 10a of the bag body as shown in FIG. 3. The user may now grip handle segments 12a and 12b with his left hand L as shown in FIG. 4 to support the assembly while using his right hand R to draw the other support segment 12c upwardly along the adjacent end 10d of the bag body and over the top 10a thereof. (Allen col. 4, lines 5-20).

Allen fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. Claims 2-5, 11-13, and 21-27 depend from claim 1 and thus are also not anticipated by Allen.

Applicants submit that Allen fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 15 of at least two connection elements being connected by a string line made from a material having a low-friction surface, with the string line being a common pulling element, wherein movement of one portion of the string line causes movement of another portion of the string line, and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. As described above with respect to claim 1, the Allen device provides for a fixed adjustment by the user between the hand carrying and shoulder carrying, which requires wrapping the support segments under the bag:

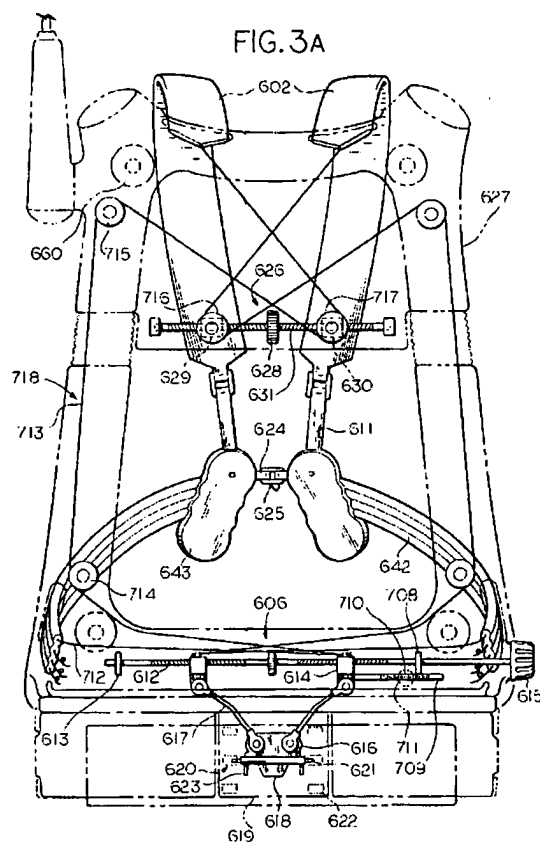


Allen fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 15 of at least two connection elements being connected by a string line made from a material having a low-friction surface, with the string line being a common pulling element, wherein movement of one portion of the string line causes movement of another portion of the string line, and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. Claim 16 depends from claim 15 and thus is also not anticipated by Allen.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,740 to Carlson (hereinafter "Carlson").

Applicants submit that Carlson fails to disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein

the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. The Carlson device is an adjustable backpack that is designed to carry heavy loads:



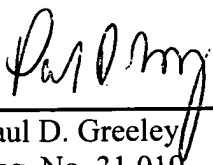
The fixed adjustment of Carlson is provided via knob 615:

The outer most end of the drive screw 612 of the adjustment mechanism is drivably connected to a suitable adjustment device such as a rotatable lever or knob 615 and the like. When knob 615 is rotated in a given direction, the drive screw 612 is activated, and brackets 614 are driven either inwardly or outwardly from the center line of the pack frame 604 pulling or releasing the tension on the cables which are attached to the shoulder straps 602 and rib-cage straps 603 thereby respectively expanding or contracting the straps around the wearer's torso. Ladder locks 611 of a type well known in the art, associated with each of the shoulder straps 602 permit further adjustment of the length of the straps to suit the wearer. (Carlson col. 4, lines 17-29).

Carlson does not disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1 of movement of one of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element causing movement of another of the at least two of the connection elements of the common pulling element, and a deflection element for guidance of the common pulling element, wherein the deflection element is movable relative to the common pulling element and wherein the carrying device is movable relative to the receiving container. Claims 2 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and thus are also not anticipated by Carlson.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of the claims. Also, applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to allowance.

Dated: 1/5/06



Paul D. Greeley
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero
& Perle, LLP
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
telephone (203) 327-4500
fax (203) 327-6401